

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 12-16 have been added. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 through 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wingard (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,183). Applicants respectfully assert that Wingard fails to disclose or suggest the features of claims 1 through 11 which include providing another communication thread identifier from the data consuming functional unit (CFU) to the data producing functional unit (PFU) when the data producing functional unit (PFU) does not accept the communication thread identifier, where the another communication thread identifier is provided in response to a request from the data producing functional unit (PFU).

The Office Action asserts that "sending the busy signal [in Wingard] indicates to the other functional unit that the busy functional unit cannot accept a request and therefore the other functional unit is to later send a request with the required thread ID." (Office Action page 4, par. 8). The Office Action relies upon col. 13, lines 56-66 of Wingard for this conclusion:

Request Thread Busy (ReqThreadBusy) allows the slave to indicate to the master that it cannot take any new requests associated with certain threads. In one embodiment, the ReqThreadBusy signal is a vector having one signal per thread, and a signal asserted indicates that the associated thread is busy.

Response Thread Busy (RespThreadBusy) allows the master to indicate to the slave that it cannot take any responses (e.g., on reads) associated with certain threads. The RespThreadBusy signal is a vector having one signal per thread, and a signal asserted indicates that the associated thread is busy.

However, Applicants respectfully assert that these paragraphs, as well as the remaining disclosure of Wingard, do not disclose the features of claims 1-11 of providing another communication thread identifier from the data consuming functional unit (CFU) to the data producing functional unit (PFU) when the data producing functional unit (PFU) does not accept the communication thread identifier, where the another communication thread identifier is provided in response to a request from the data producing functional unit (PFU). Indeed, Wingard describes that when a slave is busy, the master must continue to present the request:

The clock signal is the clock of a connected functional block. The command (Cmd) signal indicates the type of transfer on the interconnect. Commands can be issued independent of data. The address (Addr) signal is typically an indication of a particular resource that an initiator functional block wishes to access. Request Accept (ReqAccept) is a handshake signal whereby slave 1104 allows master 1102 to release Cmd, Addr and DataOut from one transfer and reuse them for another transfer. If slave 1104 is busy and cannot participate in a requested transfer, master 1102 must continue to present Cmd, Addr and DataOut. DataOut is data sent from a master to a slave, typically in a write transfer. DataIn typically carries read data. (Wingard col. 13, lines 1-12)(emphasis added).

As such, Wingard does not disclose or suggest these features of claims 1-11. Claims 12-16 also include these features of providing another communication thread identifier from the data consuming functional unit (CFU) to the data producing functional unit (PFU) when the data producing functional unit (PFU) does not accept the communication thread identifier, where the another communication thread identifier is provided in response to a request from the data producing functional unit (PFU), and thus are also patentable over Wingard.

Accordingly, for at least the above-described reasons, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Favorable consideration and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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